

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

SOUTH AFRICAN STRIKE HITS KINROSS MINE DISASTER



South African miners outside a memorial service for the 177 miners killed September 16th.

On October 1st, more than a quarter-million black mineworkers stayed away from work to commemorate the 177 workers killed September 16th in South Africa's worst gold-mine disaster. The protest was the largest ever held among the country's 550,000 black mineworkers, and they were joined by 275,000 workers in other fields, particularly the chemical and metal industries, who supported the miners in actions ranging from brief stoppages to one-day strikes. It was the third-largest labor protest in South African history, after the general strikes of May 1st and June 16th of this year which virtually paralyzed South Africa's industrial heartland around Johannesburg, with more than 1.5 million workers walking out.

On September 16th, a welding accident started a fire that ignited a polyurethane sealant on the walls of the Number 2 shaft a mile below the surface in the Kinross mine, 60 miles east of Johannesburg. As the sealant burned it sent toxic gasses billowing through the shaft, asphyxiating the workers.

At a press conference later, executives of the General Mining Corporation (Gencor) admitted that they did not know whether the sealant had ever been tested for its toxic properties when ablaze. Moreover, they declined to say whether there was a fire extinguisher near where the blaze started, as safety regulations require. Officials of the National Union of Mineworkers said there was no extinguisher. Mine executives did admit, however, that the Kinross mine's fatality rate for the first seven months of this year was higher than the industry average.

On September 22nd, Gencor officials organized a memorial service for the dead miners on open ground near the Number 2 shaft, which produced 14 tons of gold a year. Earlier, Cyril Ramaphos, general secretary of the miners' union, called for a work stoppage October 1st, in a national day of mourning. Other union officials made clear that they were intent on insuring that the owners' memorial service would be regarded as a failure.

Several hundred mineworkers started jogging through the owners' service, waving the hard hats they wear underground and chanting slogans. Others waved placards including one proclaiming "An injury to one is an injury to all." Hundreds more of the 4,000 at the service joined in, bringing it to an early end.

The coverage of the disaster only underscores the nature of apartheid. The mining company was quick to identify the five white dead by name, occupation, and marital status, giving details of how many children they had. The 177 blacks were identified only by tribe. By the 22nd, the company admitted that some of the black victims' families might not have been notified because they live in remote villages.

Under South African law, 97% of the blacks working in the nation's mines are migrants working on annual contracts who live in single-sex hostels on mine compounds before returning to distant home villages either in South Africa itself or in neighboring countries, particularly Mozambique and Lesotho.

The mines they work in account for the bulk of South Africa's wealth. Last year, for instance, gold exports valued at 6.9 billion dollars represented 59% of the nation's mineral earnings and nearly 70% of the income garnered from exports.

South Africa's worst mining accident took place in 1960, when a coal-mine collapse killed 437 workers. The biggest previous gold-mining disaster occurred in 1900, when 152 workers died in a flooded mine. Experts estimate that 46,000 miners have died in the century since gold was discovered in these uplands in 1886.

(This story was pieced together from accounts that had been censored by the South African Government and filtered through the US boss press.)

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UCFW THOUGHT POLICE TARGET REBEL ART

Not content with the bureaucratic liquidation of P-9 militancy, or its new role as scab-herder, the UFCW is engaged in a full-tilt campaign against all cultural traces of the struggle against Hormel by P-9 meatpackers in Austin, Minnesota. At 8:30 in the morning of October 8th, UFCW labor fakers began the destruction of the large mural on the Austin Labor Center's exterior with a rented sandblaster. The mural depicts the transformation of unorganized workers, caught in the coils of a serpent with Hormel logos for eyes, into an organized force bearing banners. At the top of the mural are inscribed the verses: "We have fed you all for a thousand years: If blood be the price of your cursed wealth, good God we have paid in full."

As UFCW officials roped off the parking lot and put up no-trespassing signs, North American Meat Packers Union militants protested against the destruction. NAMPU is the real P-9, the new formation of Austin strikers after the local was put into receivership by the UFCW International. Suspended P-9 Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Buck was arrested for standing in her union's parking lot. Others were threatened with arrest by UFCW officials each time they stepped into the roped-off area, and throughout the day police patrol cars circled the hall while two detectives videotaped the confrontation. The UFCW has also stated its intention to destroy a monument to the McDonnough family and Joe Spencer, who were killed in a helicopter crash while on their way to film a news story on the strike. The monument was built by original P-9 strikers.

This is not the first attack on workers' culture by the UFCW. Earlier, a 14-foot-long mural in the basement of the union hall depicting the evolution of labor from the time of slavery to the present P-9 situation was painted over, and paintings of members of the suspended P-9 executive board, as well as a painting of the hall, were destroyed.

As of this writing (October 8th) lawyers for the North American Meat Packers Union are before a judge seeking a temporary restraining order to halt the destruction of the mural on the union hall's outer wall.

AROUND OUR UNION

ILLINOIS: Fellow Worker George LaForest of Rockford, a retired United Auto Worker, was one of the city's representatives at the United Steelworkers rally in Gary, Indiana September 27th. The Rockford contingent included a former steward of the Sundstrand plant, whose workers were recently locked out and denied unemployment on the ground that the lockout was a "labor dispute". After the rally the workers, including a number of TWA flight attendants, marched to the USX plant, where they were met by heavily-armed security police.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN: On September 21st, local Wobs wet up a literature table at the WEFT Fest, a street fair sponsored by the local community radio station. Several copies of the *Industrial Worker* were picked up along with other IWW literature, and a number of new names were added to the IWW mailing list. October 5th saw the Champaign-Urbana IWW Group set up a literature table at a day-long Peace Fair sponsored by several local organizations. The Group has also returned to the airwaves with a weekly two-hour radio show on WEFT. Among the topics covered since going back on the air have been New Technology and the Labor Movement, the Spanish Revolution, and the plight of the homeless.

MASSACHUSETTS: IWW members in Boston/Cambridge are trying to make contact with Cambridge street performers with an eye to building Recreation Workers Industrial Union 630. They are currently leafleting area street performers about the attack on free speech and

assembly represented by the Cambridge Licensing Board's proposed ordinance, which according to the IWW leaflets would require "licensing (with photo ID) of all street performers, petitioners, canvassers, political activists, tablers, et cetera, with the further restriction of where and when persons may work the squares and streets of Cambridge". Criminal-background checks will also be required for all license applicants.

The FWs urge street performers to join Recreational Workers Union 630 of the IWW and build a union as the best defense for their free speech and assembly and for mutual aid.

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MEATPACKING: IT'S NOT OVER YET !

P-9 STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The boss press has been very effective in its efforts to create the illusion that the strike against the Hormel Company in Austin, Minnesota has been settled and that all the P-9 supporters around the country can disband. Unfortunately, the strikers are finding many supporters confused by this media blitz.

True, the UFCW and Hormel have signed a sweetheart contract, and the working scabs are jubilant over the concessions wrested from Hormel by a bitter 13-month struggle against both the UFCW and the Company. The scabs are planning a bright and cheery Christmas, but the 1300 brave and tenacious striking families in Austin, Fremont, and Ottumwa who were responsible for winning these concessions from Hormel have been left to twist in the wind. They have been locked out of the plant while the scabs enjoy the fruits of the strikers' struggle.

The only hope these strikers have of being rehired *under conditions they agree with*, and their only hope of bringing democracy back to their union, is working-class solidarity both inside and outside the industry and the economic pressure being brought to bear on Hormel by the boycott.

We must redouble our efforts to: (1) spread the boycott of Hormel products; (2) support the striking families in any way possible; (3) help them in their efforts to re-certify as the North American Meatpackers Union and send the dictatorial, scab UFCW packing; and (4) combat the Company's "everything is back to normal and everyone is happy" media hype.

The struggle must not only continue, but intensify. Rumor has it that Hormel profits for the quarter ending this month are the lowest in the Company's history. The boycott is hurting Hormel. For the sake of those 1300 families, let's twist the knife! Solidarity is everything.

Gary Cox

NAMPU SPEAKS

(Editor's note: After the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) took over Local P-9 and broke their strike against Hormel, recalcitrant workers set up a new union, the North American Meat Packers Union (NAMPU), to carry on the fight against concessions and the UFCW dictatorship. We spoke on the phone recently with Connie Dammen, a charter member of NAMPU and a union spokesperson. This is what she had to say.)

IW: What is the present status of the re-certification petition? Has a date been set for an election?

Connie Dammen: No date has been set for the election. The UFCW has filed an unfair-labor-practice charge against the North American Meat Packers Union, and that hearing will be taking place on October 16th. Until this has been settled, the actual vote on re-certification is blocked. NAMPU has also filed unfair-labor-practice charges against the UFCW. If the NLRB finds merit to the charges, that will also come to a hearing.

IW: What do you feel are your chances of winning [the election]? Is there a possibility that the no-union option could win?

CD: I don't think there's any possibility for the no-union option to win. Our chances of winning are pretty good, since none of the 800 of us are going to vote for the UFCW since they negotiated our jobs away. A large number of people in the plant, who were P-9 scabs, had an escrow account which the UFCW negotiated away in order to do away with the two-tier wage system. This escrow money will be going to the replacement-worker scabs. The P-9 scabs are angry with the UFCW for negotiating their escrow accounts away, and in my opinion will probably vote for re-certification.

IW: If you win, what then? If you lose...?

CD: If we win we would become the bargaining agent and the UFCW contract now in place would no longer be in effect. We would then have the power to negotiate a new contract, and obviously we wouldn't be as quick to

throw ourselves out into the streets as the UFCW is. We don't plan on losing.

IW: What kind of support does NAMPU have in other UFCW locals?

CD: NAMPU has a lot of support in other locals. People who have been with the UFCW for a long time have had their eyes opened. It's not a question of whether the other locals want to re-certify, but how we can do it.

IW: Do you see the possibility of other rebellious locals in the UFCW, or other industries, breaking with the Internationals and linking up in a new federation?

CD: I think we're in the groundswell of that, and people are realizing that we don't have true unionism anymore, but what we have is corporate unionism. We have unions which are no longer in place for the people, but only for the dues people pay. I think workers are pretty disgruntled with union officials who have paychecks equal to those of corporate executives.

IW: Given the feeling that the meatpackers were virtually swallowed up by the Retail Clerks, do you feel there is any basis for organic unity between production and distribution ends of the meat/food-processing industry?

CD: The reason we were swallowed up, and the reason the UFCW is more concerned with the clerks, is that the UFCW went in and organized these people and in many instances took full-time jobs and cut them into part-time jobs, and so doubled union dues by doubling the number of people.

I don't think there can be a relationship between the meatpackers and retail clerks. First of all there is not a common bond in the work being done, so there's no way we can respectively relate to each other's problems.

IW: Back to more-pressing concerns. What is the situation with the Austin workers who have lost their jobs? Any chance that they might be recalled? What about Ottumwa?

CD: The Hormel Company has stated that we will only be recalled as "business wants", but our illustrious UFCW International took it upon themselves to bargain away our unlimited recall rights that we are entitled to under federal law. Only a "union" can bargain them away. As far as Ottumwa goes, I believe they are in the same condition we are here.

IW: What's the situation inside the plant? Any job actions, or is the mood one of defeat?

CD: The contract the scabs are working under is a total management-rights contract. The scabs wouldn't dare do anything because they would lose their jobs. In this contract, negotiated by the UFCW, as far as job security goes, an employee may be fired without any arbitration, regardless of whether faulty work was the result of faulty equipment or not.

IW: Looking back on the strike, was there a point at which Hormel could have been shut down?

CD: We shut it down on and off. I do think that from day one we should never have let management in, or any trucks out. We started confrontation in January when they re-opened the plant and started to hire scabs. We should have started from day one, August 17th.

IW: Are you optimistic about NAMPU and the labor movement in general?

CD: Yes, I am, because we have had response from other union and non-union plants that the UFCW is trying to organize, and they're interested in NAMPU.

IW: Recently a judge offered amnesty to strikers arrested during the strike in exchange for community service. About how many people have taken him up on the offer?

CD: Two hundred and twenty-three. We did have a trial that ended today [October 8th], and two of our retirees who were arrested were found not guilty on all counts by the jury.

ADDRESSES:

Austin United Support Group, PO Box 396, Austin, Minnesota 55912 (for boycott stickers, flyers, and the like).

Hormel Rank-and-File Fightback, PO Box 903, Austin, Minnesota 55912 (for the Adopt a Family P-9 Family Fund). Make checks payable to "Hormel Rank-and-File Fightback".

North American Meatpackers Union, 711 4th Avenue Northeast, Austin, Minnesota 55912 (Phone 507-437-8588).



FDL PICKETS BUSTED

Cops arrested 23 pickets in two days of confrontation at the struck FDL Foods in Rochelle, Illinois September 23rd and 24th. Workers at the plant had been on strike for 13 days when the company decided to re-open with scabs. Nearly 300 pickets turned out September 23rd and 150 September 24th in a show of solidarity. Cops in riot gear from 50 miles around were on hand to break the line.

Workers all over are fighting back against concessions and paying the price in arrests, lost wages, and sometimes jobs. The time has come to unify and spread the strikes to keep from being picked off one by one.

ALBERTA MEATPACKERS STRIKE

Members of UFCW Local 1118P-2 have been on strike against Gainer Meats in Edmonton, Alberta since June 1st. The 1,080 meatpackers are demanding wage parity (\$13.02 an hour) with other Canadian firms with UFCW contracts. Gainer refused to even discuss the matter and began hiring scabs early on, leading to picket-line confrontations and the arrest of 300 strikers.

The UFCW has called for a boycott of all Gainer products sold under the Swift label. In Canada products from the Edmonton plant can be identified by a government inspection sticker labeled "18-B".

Another 480 UFCW workers struck Fletcher's Fine Foods in Red Deer, Alberta over the parity issue at the same time. This strike ended in success on June 14th after Fletcher workers in Vancouver, BC threatened to go out in sympathy with their Alberta fellow workers. Solidarity pays off!

DID YOU NOTICE?

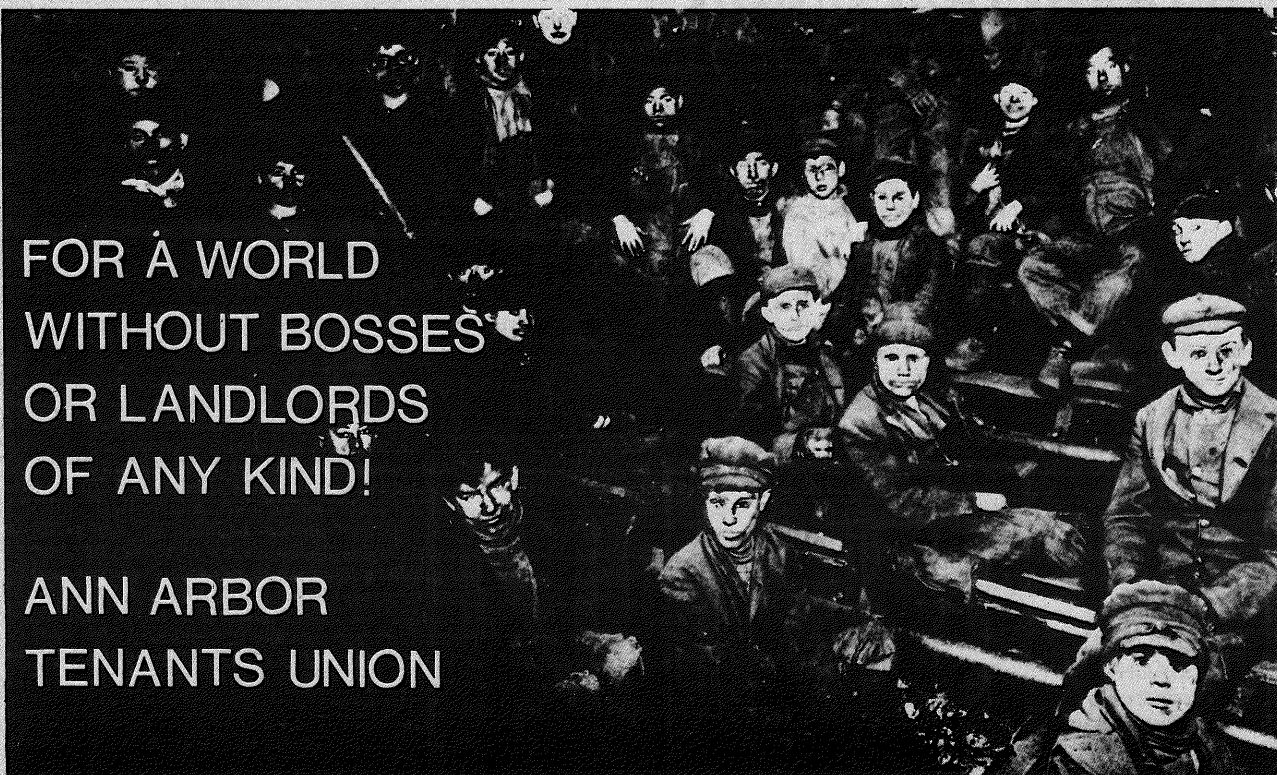
TWELVE ARRESTED IN YALE OCCUPATION: 12 demonstrators were arrested September 22nd after they occupied Yale University's investment office to demand that the school sell all of its holdings in companies that do business in South Africa. The 12 occupiers, including 11 Yale students, were charged with criminal trespass, and 9 people holding a sit-in on the sidewalk outside the office were arrested for disorderly conduct. As the University secretary put it: "We must never confuse free expression with disruptive action. The actions of the individuals who, as they put it, 'took matters into their own hands' by forcibly blocking activity of the investments office cannot be condoned. Disruption is purely and simply antithetical to the values of the University." In a way that profiting from apartheid apparently isn't.

DUTCH ANTI-NATO DEMONSTRATION: On September 21st, about a thousand demonstrators marched through Amsterdam to the harbor to protest the presence of 22 warships that had just taken part in a NATO exercise. Another group of demonstrators tried to approach the warships in 50 small boats, but were kept away by water police. The protestors said some of the ships were carrying nuclear weapons. Two marchers were arrested near the city hall, one for throwing paint at riot police.

JOURNALISTS JOIN STRIKES in Bangladesh: More than 5,000 journalists and other press workers walked out September 21st to demand the re-opening of the country's leading English-language daily, the *Bangladesh Observer*. The press strike joined strikes by university teachers and doctors. Nearly 2500 university teachers were on strike for the 18th day, demanding a pay raise and autonomy for Bangladesh's six universities, which they believe would help end years of campus violence. All medical services in the country except emergency services have been paralyzed since about 8,000 doctors stopped work September 20th to demand better conditions for new medical graduates.

FOR A WORLD
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ANN ARBOR
TENANTS UNION



US LABOR NEWS.....

BOISE PAPER STRIKE ENDS

The 76-day-old strike of Local 900 of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) against the Boise Cascade Paper Group's Rumford, Maine mill (see the September and October *IWs*) officially ended September 21st with a return to work, a week after workers voted 403 to 214 to reconsider the company's final contract offer. That offer, which was overwhelmingly defeated July 3rd, was approved by a two-to-one margin September 13th and 14th.

The agreement, unilaterally implemented by Boise July 21st after they declared that an impasse had been reached, virtually guts previous contracts, stripping the union of the ability to effectively represent its members on a day-to-day basis. The main issue of the workers' July 1st strike was the so-called flexibility clause, which would give management the right to transfer workers to different jobs without consulting the union. Workers feared this would lead to abuse by management and increase the risk of injury to workers placed in unfamiliar situations.

Final acceptance of the agreement can be traced to growing fears among strikers that they would lose their jobs permanently to scabs if they stayed out too much longer. Beginning July 21st, Boise implemented a replacement program in which they eventually interviewed almost 2,000 potential scabs and actually brought in over 300 strikebreakers. In addition, as the strike dragged on, Boise began to encourage scabs and salaried personnel to write letters to the local newspaper encouraging the stay-at-home strikers to break with the picket-line militants and return to work. It is possible that this campaign was beginning to have an effect and the back-to-work vote was taken to forestall a massive defection.

As it now stands, 342 workers have lost their jobs, though the back-to-work agreement places these on a preferential hiring list. The union has re-filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board alleging that Boise committed an unfair labor practice by declaring an impasse and hiring strikebreakers. If this charge is upheld by the Board (highly unlikely) Boise will be required to fire the scabs and recall the replaced workers.

Militants are understandably bitter about the outcome of the strike. Tom Hines, who has worked for Boise four and a half years in the loading department, declared that "The strike is over, but the war ain't." Ed Bulger, another militant who was injured by Boise security guards in a confrontation with scabs, feels that "this town is going to explode" and that workers in the mill have "lost all our rights". Workers also fear that management will attempt to punish militant workers for their actions on the

picket line.

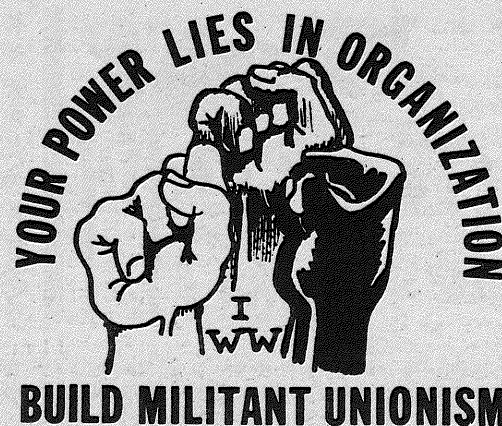
If there is any saving grace in the strike's outcome, it is that the workers went back to work more or less united. Indeed, they are now in a better position to carry on the fight than when they were out on the picket line. Once again in a position to *control production*, the workers could (if organized to do so) implement various job actions such as slowdowns, work-to-rule, mass grievances, and refusal to work with scabs, designed to make it clear to management that relations in the mill will not return to normal till their 342 fellow workers are back on the job.

Of course the implementation of such a strategy will depend entirely on the self-organization of the workers. The Local's leadership has opted to go the NLRB route. But if the 342 replaced workers are ever to get their jobs back, a campaign of direct action will be necessary. The battle is over, but the struggle continues.

Mike Hargis



PEOPLE'S WHEREHOUSE I.U. 660 Ann Arbor



BUILD MILITANT UNIONISM

REAGAN IMPOSES RAIL SETTLEMENT

On September 30th, President Reagan signed into law a measure imposing a contract settlement in the seven-month dispute between the Maine Central Railroad and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees. The union struck March 3rd after the railroad demanded layoffs and wage cuts. The union professes to be satisfied with the settlement dictated from above, while the company has threatened to challenge the constitutionality of the settlement in court. But however "generous" the settlement may seem to the union now, they are doing the labor movement a great injury by accepting a Government-made agreement.

HAMMOND VALVE PICKETS BATTLE COPS

On September 8th, 200 pickets in Hammond, Indiana battled police and scabs in an effort to shut down Hammond Valve. Workers there have been on strike for four months against company demands for big pay cuts (from 33 to 50% for production workers), elimination of two weeks' paid vacation, reductions in pension and insurance benefits, and wholesale changes in work rules.

The confrontation began early in the day when Hammond cops tried to escort a caravan of scabs into the plant. At that point some tires were slashed and rocks and paint were thrown at cars. Then pickets linked arms and held their ground despite 13 arrests and several beatings. The scabs and cops finally retreated, and the plant was shut down for the day.

The next day the pickets were back despite a court order limiting them to only five at a time. The Hammond cops were back too, along with re-inforcements from neighboring communities, dressed for a riot; but only a handful of management personnel showed up for work. Score one for our side!

USX DISPUTE WIDENS

On October 1st, 400 workers at 13 warehousing and service plants owned by USX joined 42,000 USWA steelworkers on the streets. As in the steel dispute, US Steel Supply (the division of USX affected) claimed that the work stoppage was a strike because the workers refused to accept the company's final offer. The USWA claims that workers were locked out after they offered to continue working under the old agreement.

STEELWORKERS, ARMCO REACH TENTATIVE ACCORD

On September 10th representatives of the Armco Employees Independent Federation and Armco Steel reached a tentative agreement. Workers at Armco's Middletown, Ohio plant walked off a week earlier, protesting company demands for another round of concessions "to improve the plan and stay competitive" with other steel producers. The company imposed wage cuts August 31st, citing its 343-million-dollar write-off related to the bankruptcy filing of LTV, with which Armco jointly operated a mining company.

The proposed settlement contains no wage cuts and restores the money lost in the August cut. The company will be allowed to re-open the contract in 1988 and '89. The union agreed to a freeze of the cost-of-living adjustment and a joint study committee of trade and craft consolidations.

STRIKE OVER GM SECRET-CAR PROJECT

About 250 members of Local 160 of the United Auto Workers struck the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, Michigan September 22nd to protest the company's use of non-union labor on a secret new-car project. The UAW said the company had violated its labor contract by using non-union labor on Project Trilby, a 90-million-dollar program expected to draw on the electronics technology of Hughes Aircraft, which GM bought last year.

WASHINGTON POST SUED FOR ABUSE OF OVERTIME

On October 2nd, five employees of the *Washington Post* sued the newspaper in Federal District Court, charging that it violated labor law by refusing to pay cash or premium wages for overtime work, on the "asserted ground that the department or *Post* budget did not allow payment of overtime wages". The *Post* and the Newspaper Guild are engaged in negotiations over a new contract to replace the one that expired July 9th.

UNITED PILOTS' JOBS UP IN AIR

In the first week of October, the 566 trainee pilots who refused to cross pilots' picket lines in the 29-day United strike last year were told by a federal appeals court that United did not have to hire them when the strike ended. The decision by a three-judge panel reversed an earlier ruling by US District Judge Nicholas Bua, who had ordered United to hire the recruits.

The reversal immediately raised the question of whether United would now fire the 566, most of whom have been on the job for more than a year. So far the union has not decided whether to appeal the case to the Supreme Court or ask for a rehearing. Meanwhile, sources at United said airline executives were elated by the ruling. During the strike, United chairperson Richard Ferris vowed that trainees would never work for United if they honored the picket lines.

In fact the strike lasted three weeks after the economic issues had been resolved, because of a deadlock over a back-to-work agreement with the trainees. The company had trained 570 recruits as potential scabs and ordered them to report for work on May 17th, 1985, the

day after the strike began, but only four showed up.

The remaining 566 recruits told the airline they would accept employment, but honored the picket line of the striking pilots, who were dickering (among other things) over the terms of a two-tier wage system under which new pilots would be paid far less than incumbents.

United was the first airline that tried to operate during a strike following de-regulation of the industry in the late 1970s, and the court order to the company to hire all the trainees served to clarify the Railway Labor Act. The appeals-court decision will weaken the future bargaining position of all unions governed by the Act. "Now an employer will be able to train an identical labor force and say that the group that gives [him] the lowest bid has got the jobs," said one disgruntled union official. But that view overlooks the fact that out of 570 trainees, 566 would not scab. Instead of relying on court decisions that are sure to be even more anti-union in the future, unions are going to have to point out to unemployed and non-union workers the long-run advantages of keeping wage levels up by not crossing picket lines.

EAST COAST LONGSHORE STRIKE

On September 30th, 30,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association started a three-day strike that idled more than a dozen ports from Maine to Virginia in the first industry-wide walkout against East Coast shipping companies since 1971. The last major strike by the union (in 1977) was against containerized shipping only. The union's three-year contract, covering 36 Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports, expired on the 30th, but local unions representing Southeast and Gulf ports agreed to keep working.

In negotiations before the strike, employers demanded that direct wages of workers handling loose or "break-bulk" cargo be reduced from \$17 to \$14 an hour; that newly-hired employees' wages start at \$5 less than at present; and, in New York, that the maximum number of hours workers are paid when work is not available be reduced from 2,080 hours a year to 1,768. The union offered to accept a reduction to 1900 hours a year and a two-year pay freeze, but refused the two-tier system.

On October 3rd, union president Thomas Gleason an-

nounced that the union would return to work under the terms of the old contract till November 17th, a 45-day extension during which bargaining would continue.

Paying workers guaranteed time dates to 1964, when the longshore union agreed to accept it in exchange for allowing the shipping companies to install mechanized loading and unloading systems using containerized cargoes. The East Coast union is hard-pressed to hold onto its gains, however, with the growing number of ports in the Southeast and on the Gulf Coast where workers get wages substantially less than the standard union scale of \$17 an hour.

Some unions in this area are said to have even been forced to accept contracts with two-tier clauses and wages and benefits below union scale. But accepting sub-scale wages is like knocking a hole in the dam: As soon as one company gets a wage cut, every employer wants one to remain "competitive". Solidarity and organizing the unorganized are the only ways to fill the gaps.



The President was on the balcony of his national palace facing the assembled multitudes in the plaza below. The 16th of September, Mexico's independence day, is the occasion for the president of the country to ceremoniously give the annual "Grito de Independencia" (Shout of Independence) and to remind the Mexican people what a glorious nation they are, especially under the stewardship of the "Party of Revolutionary Institutions".

Only a couple weeks earlier, the same president had announced to the Mexican people that the economic austerity they have been saddled with over the last few years must of necessity become a permanent fixture. In his state-of-the-nation address he said: "We shall continue to be temperate in our habits, but we shall not be pessimistic in our attitudes. Our austerity effort is permanent, but it now has a positive perspective of encouragement and growth."

While such inspiring nuggets of encouragement are being mouthed by this well-fed politician, thousands of his fellow countrymen slip across the northern frontier every week. The ironic note is that Mexico is considered one of the more affluent of the Latin American countries. According to the *New York Times* the Latin American economic recession is lengthening dangerously due to enormous capital outflows to pay off international debts, even without taking into account what economists refer to as non-recorded capital transfers (or capital flight) estimated at several times the official amount.

The Mexicans have a time-honored folk saying: *Las gallinas de arriba siempre caguen en las de abajo*.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, things are not looking too bright for a sizable portion of the freest people on Earth. The independent farmer has always been a symbol of hard-working self-sufficiency, but the family-owned farm is soon to suffer the same fate as the California condor. This time-honored facet of Americana is fast disappearing from the scene due to bankruptcies and subsequent foreclosures.

This is especially true in the Southern US, where the recent heat wave and drought are causing a massive exodus of country folk to nearby towns or Northern cities. While independent farmers have long been associated with reactionary politics and not been considered members of the working class by armchair theoreticians, they were at least a hopeful example of people controlling their own workplaces. Since Karl Marx wrote *Das Kapital*, however, the system has further entrenched itself, and the chickens on the bottom haven't done too much about their brethren on the top who continue to deposit waste material on their heads.

From my younger years I remember the scandalous story of a child in Germany who was instrumental in sending his father to a concentration camp when he told his teacher that his father had referred to Hitler as a big windbag. This was looked on as a horrible example of a regime disrupting the sacred trust of the family unit. Here in Freedomland, a 13-year-old girl has informed on her own parents about their private use of marijuana, and the President's better half has publicly stated that the little snitch must have loved her parents very much to have them locked up for such un-American behavior.

I dare say most of those who are reading this column have had some brush with the loco weed, and have found that they can take it or leave it without getting withdrawal symptoms or going on drug-crazed rampages. If only a minuscule percentage of the claims of the anti-marijuana alarmists were true, half the people in their early 30s and 40s would now be dead, in mental institutions, or otherwise incapacitated.

While marijuana does nothing for one's physical well-being, neither does it produce the deleterious effects of alcohol. Of course anything done to excess is harmful, even consuming huge amounts of *caca cola*. Yet there is much campaigning against the use of marijuana on the part of certain interests, while even though it is a well-known fact that a high percentage of hospital admissions are alcohol-related, one never sees announcements saying that consumption of alcoholic beverages is dangerous to your health. One also has the gnawing suspicion that the chickens on the top have not yet figured a satisfactory way to incorporate the happy herb into the profit system.

Nevertheless, a lot of our withholding tax is being used to track down those vicious marijuana fiends. If these moralists are so concerned about public health, why aren't they agitating for tougher controls against environmental pollution instead of giving corporations the green light to continue to drop their waste products on us chickens at the bottom.

One time I stopped a street evangelist from bending my ear when he asked me if I was aware that the Lord was always watching me. I replied that he always waits till I'm directly below before relieving himself.

C. C. Redcloud

Editorial:

What's It Got To Do With Unionism?

The AFL-CIO, if we are to believe the boss press, is on a roll—poised to meet the challenges of tomorrow through innovative approaches to benefits, political action, work rules, and labor-management co-operation. How innovative these approaches actually are is open to debate—many see them as little more than a re-play of the company unionism that lost much of its impetus in the 1930s. But they certainly do represent a departure from the root principles of unionism—solidarity, organization, class conflict, and industrial action.

Some claim that a new approach to unionism is mandated by the changing times (us Wobblies, of course, would contend that the current sorry condition of labor stems from its failure to hold to its principles, and to organize). But has the new approach paid off?

Consider the facts. Major union contracts in the first six months of 1986 provided the lowest first-year pay boosts in recent history, averaging only 1.2%—the fourth consecutive year this index of labor's power has fallen. Last year's increases were more than twice that level, though still falling far behind inflation. Manufacturing workers actually saw their pay decline in new contracts.

Real average weekly wages of workers plummeted 10% between May 1978 and May 1986, though professionals and employers saw substantial gains in income over the same period. Increased numbers of workers are being forced into part-time and minimum-wage jobs—devastating wages and working conditions for retail workers especially.

Injuries on shop floors are increasing as speedup becomes the order of the day. Corporate profits are doing quite well, aided by massive government giveaways. And union membership—both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the workforce—continues to fall.

So what are the business unions doing about this sorry state of affairs?

In San Diego, California, the construction workers recently agreed to a labor-management co-operation

scheme modeled after a similar program in Saint Louis. Their new three-year master contract provides lower wages for work on residential projects and interior work. Management was given more flexibility on work rules and starting time, and no longer has to pay overtime for extra work caused by bad weather. Yet, though construction workers overwhelmingly ratified the pact, several employers have refused to sign because unions continue to insist that contractors use union labor. Unions hope this new pact, and a continuing program aimed at promoting labor-management co-operation, will stem the rise of subcontracting to non-union firms and keep their members working. But organizing the non-union construction workers to demand union wages and conditions would seem to hold out more hope as a long-term strategy.

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO is engaged in a massive program to bolster its membership rolls and improve its image (unions now rank near the bottom of public-opinion polls, with used-car salesmen and members of Congress). Rather than organizing the unorganized or fighting for better conditions, this new strategy is aimed at offering discount services to union members. The goal is to market unionism with everything from low-cost credit cards to insurance policies. A new Union Privilege Benefits Program will offer a wide range of group-rate insurance policies, along with MasterCard, discount legal services, banks, building loans, and such. All this gives new meaning to the term "business union", and with proper marketing and packaging it could lead to significant increases in AFL-CIO membership. Just what any of it has to do with unionism, however, is a different question.

Increasingly, it seems as if the "international" "unions" that dominate the US labor scene have forgotten what unionism is all about. What's needed now is an aware, fighting rank and file committed to building revolutionary industrial unions such as the IWW.

JB



Greetings from Athens, Georgia

In memory of the Chicago Anarchists

Albert Parsons, August Spies, Carl Engel, Adolph Fischer who were hanged by the State of Illinois, November 11, 1887; and Louis Lingg who committed suicide in his cell

The day before the execution — the closing stanza of Burcar's "Centennial Narrative" as read by Ed Tant at the Eighth Human Rights Festival, May 4, 1986 ~ ~ ~

In a cemetery near Chicago called Waldheim

A bronze monument now covered with grime

From a hundred years of the City's foul air

Commemorates the tragedy known as the "Haymarket Affair."

A statue of a hooded woman stands there

Gazing over the tombstones with prophetic stare;

No mater dolorosa, no figure of pity,

She points an accusing finger toward the City

Where bigoted plutocrats

Aided and abetted by legal autocrats

And conniving judges with hangdog jaws

Who knew how to interpret the State's capitalist laws

Committed in 1887 an anti-human crime

Memorialized by the Haymarket Monument at Waldheim

From her pedestal with brooding face,

She hooded figure with womanly grace

Beckons all to read the inscription at the monument's base

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN OUR SILENCE WILL BE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE VOICES YOU ARE THROTTLING TODAY.

Their monument may from acid rain crumble rotten,
But the Haymarket Martyrs shall never be forgotten.

poem by Louis Burcar
Calligraphy by Jacqueline Anne

WHY JOIN THE IWW?

Because there are things we can do together that we cannot do alone. Some of these things will benefit your job, and some will merely benefit the human race. Whether we are in a position to get you a pay raise or not, your conscience will repay you and your self-respect will increase if you join with us to get things done.

Since we are a union, this offer is open only to those who work for wages or salary. But since we are building One Big Union, it is open to workers whether they happen to bargain through other unions or not. Look at the directory on Page 7. If you can readily reach someone there, please do so. If not, write to the General Secretary, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois 60657, with a line about your job. The initiation fee is \$5 in the US and Canada, and dues are \$5 a month.

*EDUCATION *ORGANIZATION *EMANCIPATION



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

P. Ames, R. Christopher, C. Cortez, J. Garland
M. Hargis, P. Pixler, F. Thompson

General Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Kaufmann

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READ AND DISTRIBUTE THE I.W.

reader's soapbox

PRISONER ORGANIZING PROJECT CLARIFIED

Paul Poulos
788 Columbus Avenue (16D)
New York, New York 10025
September 30th, 1986

TO: THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER COLLECTIVE:

I am writing in regard to the Convention article that appeared in the October 1986 edition of the *Industrial Worker*. I feel that this article strongly impugns the integrity of our newspaper in that it completely distorts the events of the Convention as they pertain to prisoner members of the IWW—a subject which occupied a substantial block of time and debate among fellow workers at the Convention.

Since the article appeared over the initials of "J.B.", I'm assuming that it was written by Jon Bekken, a fellow worker who vigorously expressed views against prisoners holding membership in the IWW. I understand that it is difficult for writers to be objective on subjects about which they hold strong views. However, the *Industrial Worker* Collective had an obligation to edit "J.B."’s article for accuracy so that it CORRECTLY stated the Convention mandate on prisoners.

For the benefit of our prisoner members and other fellow workers who did not attend the Convention, I will re-state below what I feel is an accurate description of the IWW position on prisoners as it was determined by the IWW Convention. And I ask that the *Industrial Worker* Collective confirm or reject the accuracy of my accounting in an editor's note in the next issue.

PURE AND SIMPLE, it was determined at the Convention that those prisoners who are currently members of our union are to remain members, and that any other prisoners who identify with the aims and goals of our union are entitled to become members. **LIKE ANY OTHER FELLOW WORKER**, such prisoner members shall be entitled to **ALL** the rights and privileges afforded **ANY OTHER MEMBER OF OUR UNION—NO MORE, NO LESS.**

No one at the Convention, including fellow workers of the Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch, argued that prisoner organizing should be "a focus" of the IWW's work (as "J.B." indicates in his Convention arti-

cle). Rather, it was argued that ANY fellow workers who, either independently or collectively (through a branch), elect to support the efforts of our prisoner members should be free to make that choice.

Thus, a status quo was DEFINITELY UPHELD by fellow workers at the Convention regarding prisoner status in the IWW (that is, that prisoners continue to be entitled to membership in the IWW), and that decision stands CONCRETELY until such time as it is either UPHELD OR REJECTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THIS UNION in a referendum. It is totally inaccurate and incorrect to report, as "J.B." did, that "This issue led to a heated debate, but in the end no decision was reached."

I expect this letter to be published along with the *Industrial Worker* Collective's editorial note and hopefully an apology to members. The author of the Convention article cannot change the union's policies by coloring or distorting the news because it is not to his liking, and the *Industrial Worker* Collective cannot allow this article to stand uncorrected.

I remain, YOURS FOR THE ONE BIG UNION,
Paul Poulos, Member,
New York IWW General Membership Branch

(Editorial note: Fellow worker Poulos is correct in his accounting of the decisions made at the Convention regarding the status of prisoner members of the IWW. The *Industrial Worker* Collective apologizes for any confusion that may have resulted from the Convention article. In the interest of further clarification and discussion, we will ask Fellow Worker Jon Bekken to respond to Fellow Worker Poulos's article in the December issue. We ask other fellow workers to write letters expressing their views on the subject of prisoners and prisoner organizing for the January issue. Following the January issue, the Collective will close its pages to debate on this subject.)

TWA TOLD TO RE-INSTATE STRIKING FLIGHT ATTENDANTS

On September 9th, Federal District Judge Howard Sachs ruled that Trans World Airlines must re-instate 463 of the senior flight attendants who struck the airline and whose jobs were taken by trainees after the flight attendants' union offered to return to work. Jane Hefflinger, a spokesperson for the union in Kansas City, said all flight attendants ordered re-instated had at least 21 years' experience. She said about 4,647 other flight attendants who went out on strike still did not have jobs with the airline.

Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

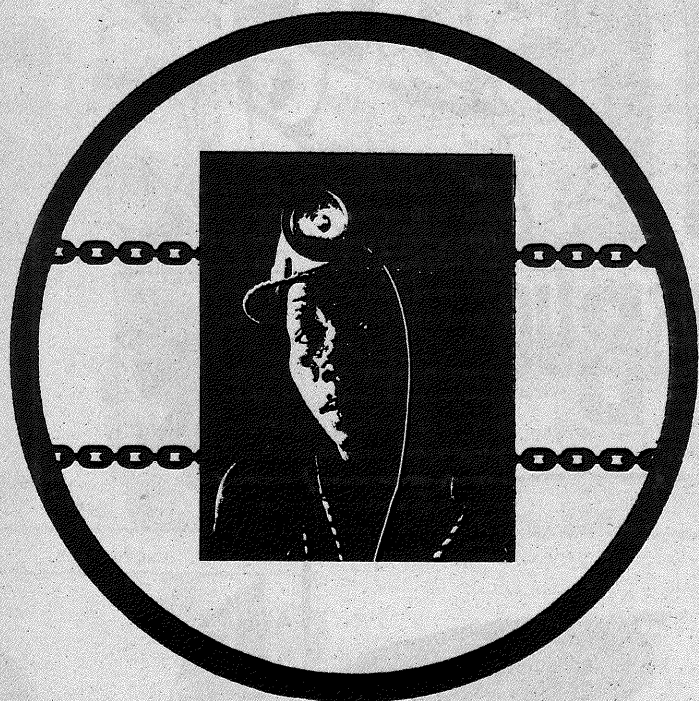
THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHELD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.

UNITED FLIGHT ATTENDANTS WIN: On October 7th, a court awarded 37 million dollars to the 1700 female United flight attendants who had been fired because they had gotten married. The sex-discrimination case had been dragging through the courts for 18 years.

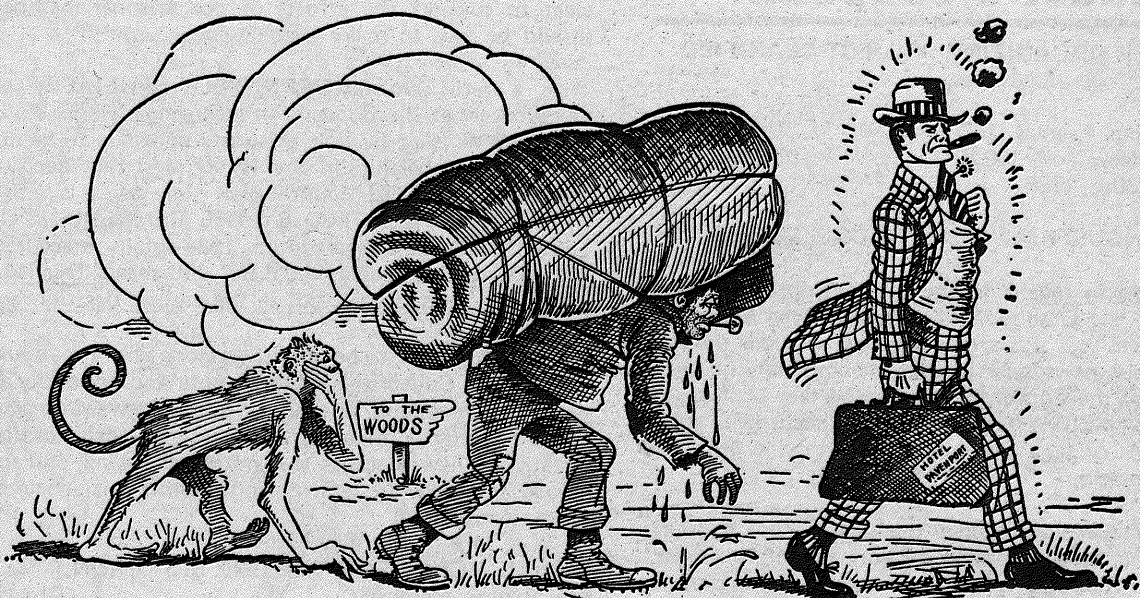
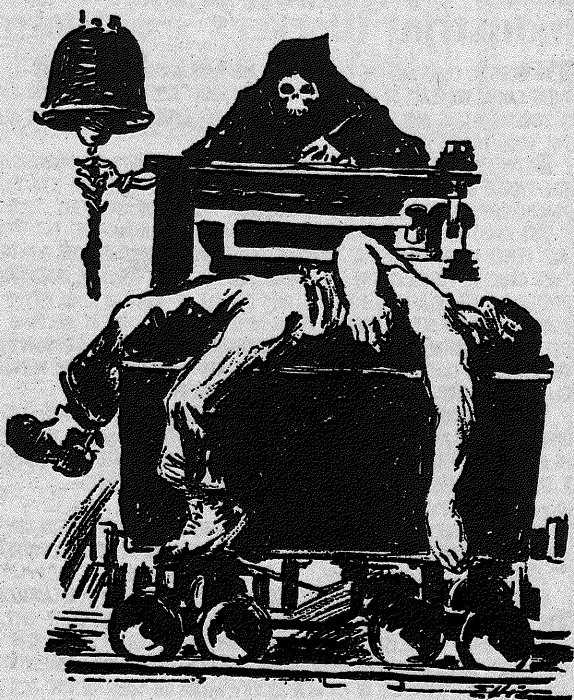
WHISTLE BLOWER LOSES in Labor Board ruling: On October 5th, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that a company can legally dismiss an employee for reporting violations of federal safety statutes to the Government. The decision upheld a 1984 NLRB ruling dismissing a complaint by a non-union Michigan truck driver who asserted that he was dismissed in violation of the Taft-Hartley Act for arranging inspection of his rig after it was involved in an accident because of malfunctioning brakes. Last year the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ordered the NLRB to reconsider the case. "Although we may be outraged by a respondent who may have imperiled public safety," said the Board, "we are not empowered to correct all immorality arising under all federal and state statutes."



UNIVERSITY CELLAR
I.U. 660 ANN ARBOR

KINROSS GOLD MINE,
SOUTH AFRICA
SEPTEMBER 16, 1986
235 INJURED
177 DEAD

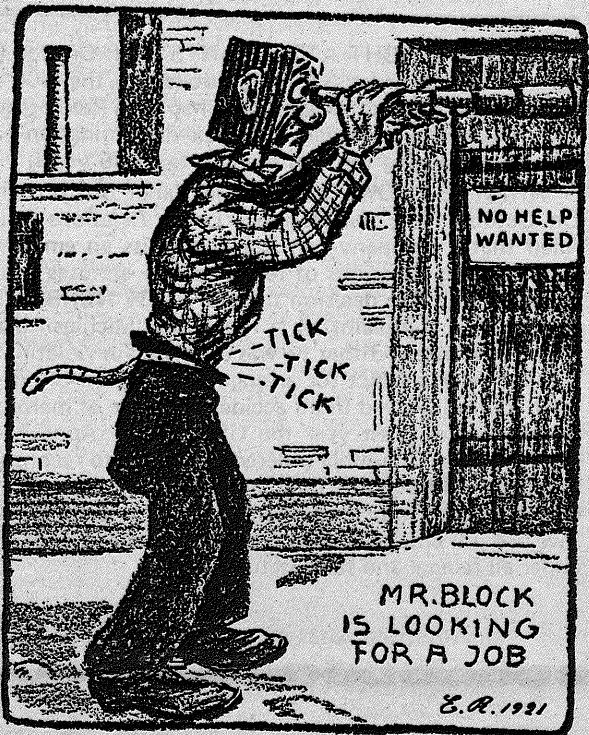
We cry out for our fallen brothers:
An injury to one is an injury to all!
BREAK THE CHAINS OF APARTHEID!
FREE THE DETAINEES!



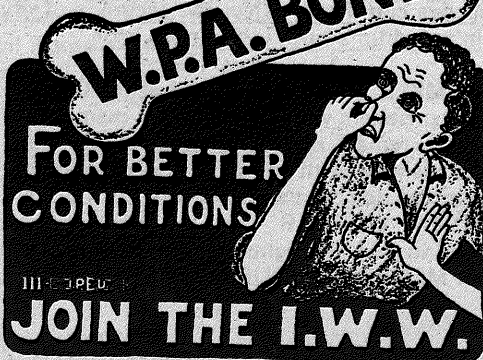
Grandfather

Timberbeast

I.W.W. "Lumberjack"

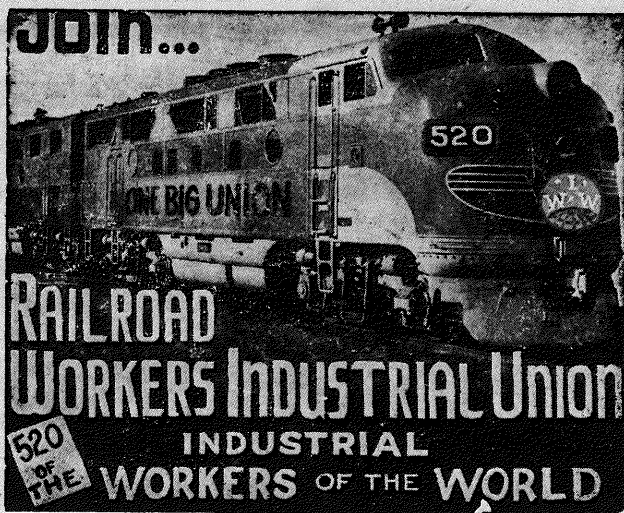


AFTER YEARS OF BONES - HOW ABOUT SOME STEAKS?



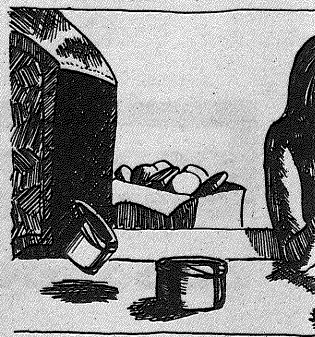
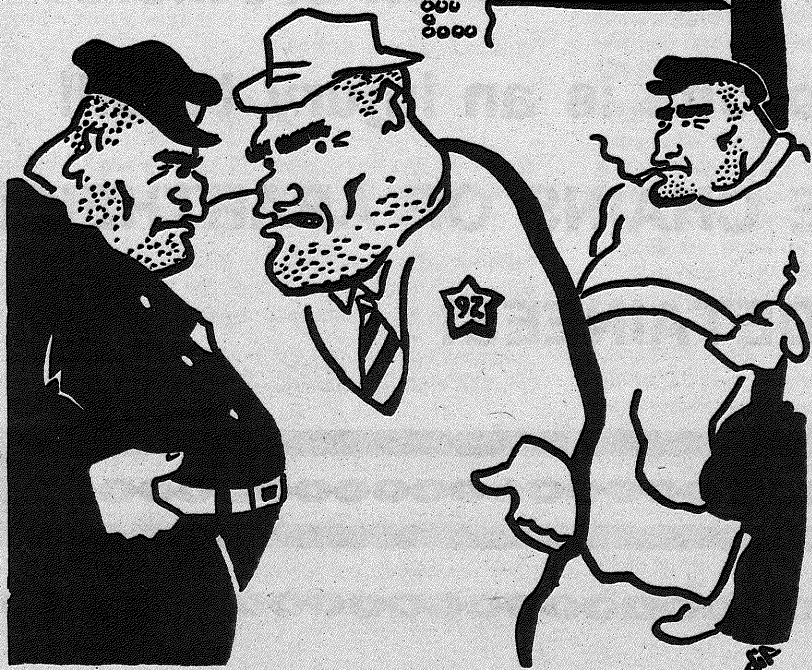
WE WANT YOU IN THE IWW

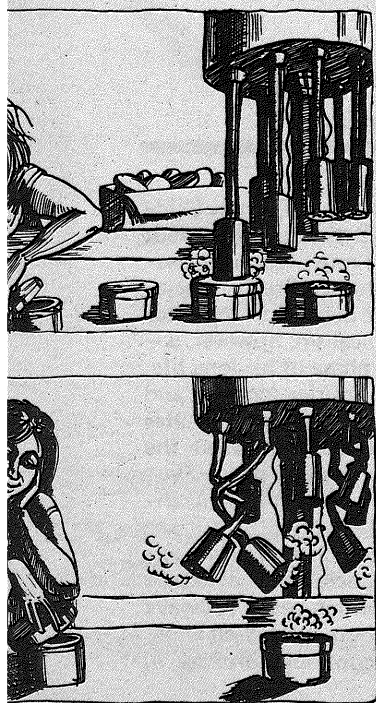
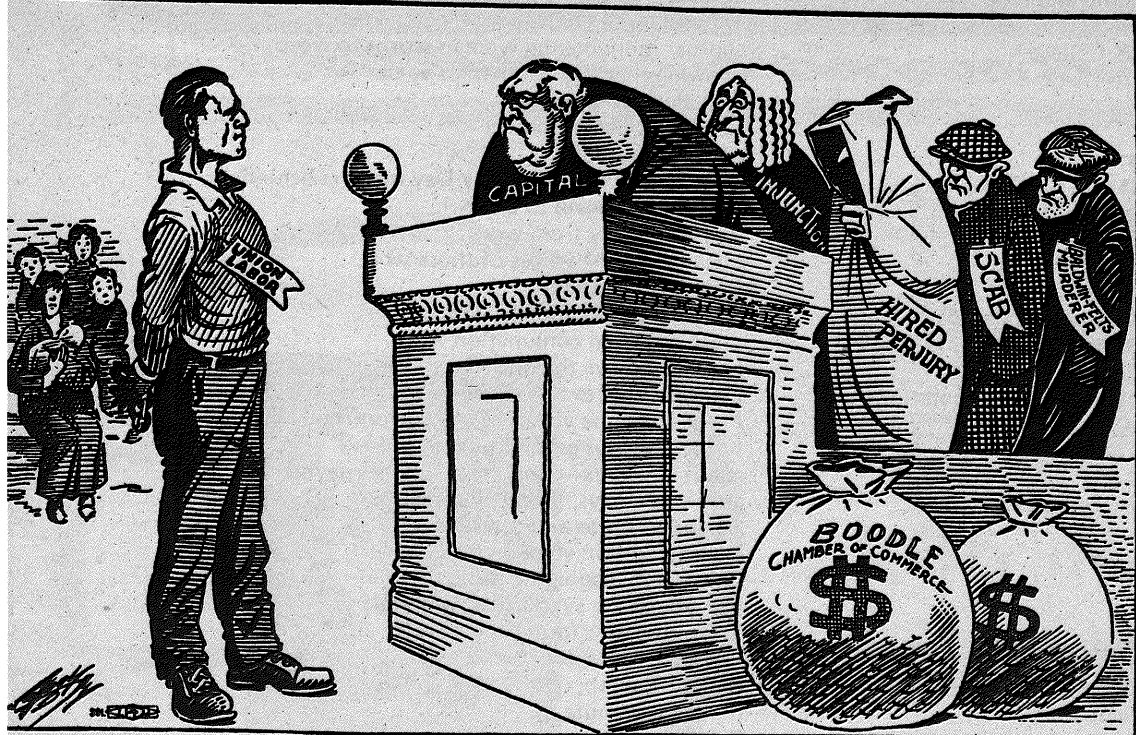
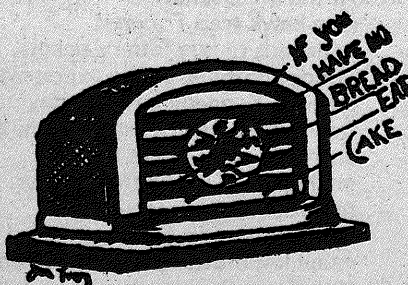
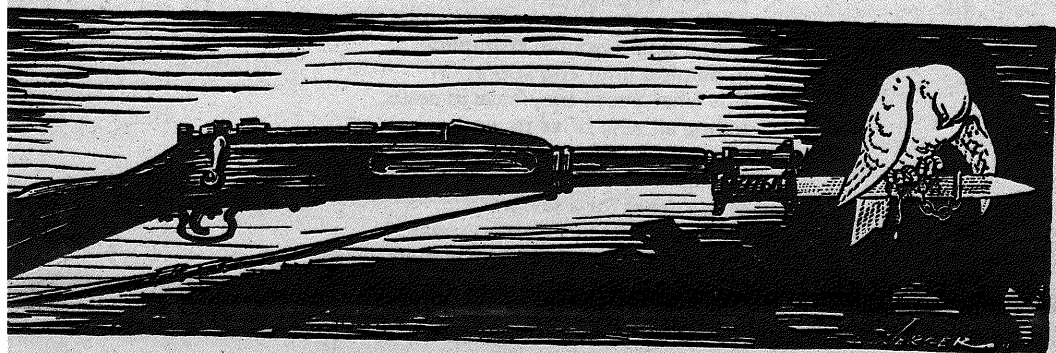
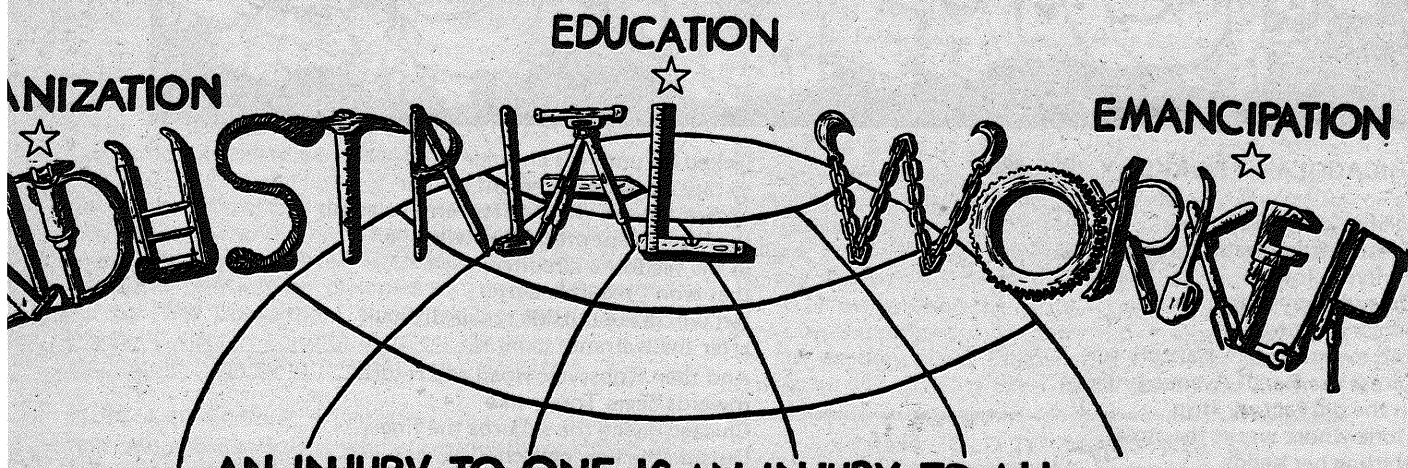
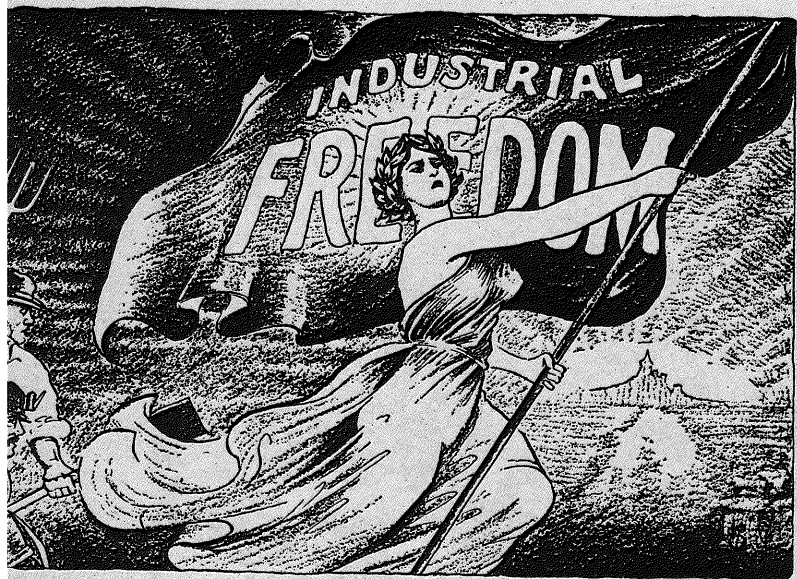
Organize in L.W.I.U. 120 for better working & living conditions, better wages and a six hour day.



BURLESK

EAT





WE KNOW
HE WON'T
JOIN the
UNION
BUT HOW
ABOUT
YOU?
JOIN I.U. 310-I.W.W.



* sound of a * distant drum

Britain's massive ex-working-class Labour Party ended its conference in Blackpool (home of welks, Guinness, bingo, and saucy postcards) in an emotional wave of self-adulation as the delegates gave themselves a hand-clapping standing ovation. As one watched, one became conscious that this was a re-run of history—of the late President Kennedy winning the hearts and closed minds of middle-class Middle America with promises of a Disneyland Camelot with no tax rises, salving the liberal conscience with cost-free answers to all social problems. American politicians solved none of the social ills of the "Great Society", but for a few brief years they believed they had found the answer in beautiful rhetoric.

This is what Neil Kinnock, leader of Britain's newly-fashioned Labour Party, gave the delegates at the annual conference. With a pretty wife and left-wing activists kicked out of the Party or off committees, our Neil gave out with such stirring emotional phrases as "I would die for my country, but I do not ask my country to die for me." So one thought of the late Kennedy as delegates clapped, though one's sadness was not for the perennial Lost Leader, but for the fact that the delegates were not rowdy working-class militant activists demanding radical or revolutionary solutions to the agony of the nation's dispossessed. Instead they were the middle-class, lower-middle-class, and superior-working-class white-collared social strata who, by virtue of knowing what forms to fill out and how to manipulate party documents, have always been able to gain control of any organization, be it the Church, the political party, or the local baseball team.

Wearing regulation jeans and clean sweatshirts, they gave the slow handclap to two speakers who protested the expulsion of left-wing militants from the Party, and applauded promises that nuclear power stations would be phased out and that American nuclear bases in Britain would be sent back to the US. The leadership promised them all these goodies, even though it would take their entire lifetime to achieve them, which means they will never happen. And they gave the slow handclap at the mention of US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and his statement that if a Labour government were to send the American nuclear warheads back to the land of the free, it would mean the breakup of NATO and the withdrawal of all American troops from Europe.

It was all good American banana-republic stuff from a top-ranking American politician; but with my hand on my failing heart I can promise Caspar on my personalized American Credit Card word of honor that Wayne, Tony, Leroy, and all the thousands of pleasant American dog-faces and their warheads and nuclear power stations will remain in Britain's green and pleasant islands. For one thinks of Kennedy and his promise of Camelot, knowing that the colonial killing and the internal poverty are still going on to haunt the conscience of the American people.

There are many great social issues, but we have moved into the age of comedy when Goya is not needed to illustrate them, but Rowlandson and Hogarth. Ian MacGregor (Ma Thatcher's hired gun) has written in his book that the miners were to be forced into taking strike action and then destroyed as a militant working-class organization. Short-term history has proved me and Arthur Scargill correct, but the blacklisted and imprisoned miners are still jobless. The Marx Memorial Library at Clerkenwell Green in London (where Lenin sat to pen *The Spark*, the original Bolshevik paper; where the chartists met; and where John Stuart Mill and William Morris set up their small socialist organizations) is now rotten with damp, and a hundred thousand dollars would be needed to save it.

Within Britain the small industrial disputes blaze into short-lived strike actions and then quickly burn out, leaving only anger and resentment against unions and management. In a year or so the British working class will be called upon to vote into office, as they have for the last hundred years, a soft-centered middle-of-the-road Labour Party; but the brightly-burning flame has died, and the idealism is lost deep down in the well-pawed forms within the council chambers. The reward will be a few soft sweeties.

Arthur Moyse, London

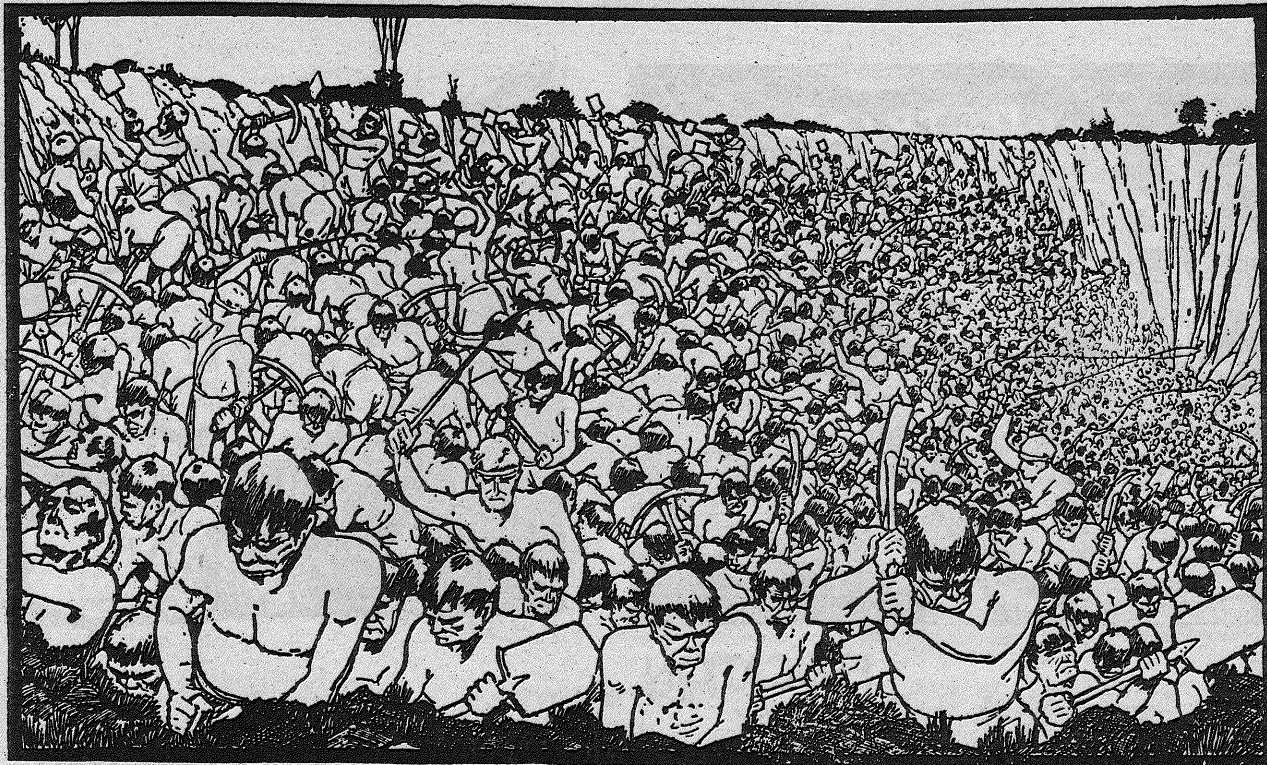
BOOK REVIEWS

A Sketch of the Life of Thomas Skidmore, by Amos Gilbert, introduction by Mark Lause, Young America Series Number One, 64 pages, paperback, \$3.95

Proudhon and His Bank of the People, by Charles A. Dana, introduction by Paul Avrich, Young America Series Number Two, 88 pages, paperback, \$4.95

(both from the Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, 1740 West Greenleaf, Suite 7, Chicago, Illinois 60626)

Long regarded as one of the most important thinkers and organizers of the early American labor movement, Thomas Skidmore (1890-1932) worked mostly as carpenter and teacher, though he also tried his hand at printing and was something of an inventor as well. His bulky treatise *Rights of Man to Property*, published in 1829, called for a mass convention under the direction of the country's working population—a convention that would



CHICAGOLAND WORKDAY, 1985-1986

I glance out the window
guessing from the chimney fumes
it's five below.
The radio says three above.
I dress on autopilot,
grab my sandwich, start my car.
Across the North Avenue bridge
on the old factory strip
a lone whore works the street,
whirling her hands
as she points to herself.
At the intersection
men hawk scab *Tribunes*
under ads to buy lottery tickets.
I dodge potholes to the expressway,
take the Kennedy past the Haymarket.
Dawn chases me twenty-five miles
on I-290 and I-38 as I chase
my high tech job to the suburbs,
too dispirited to recount
the twenty-odd American flags I pass,
much less mutter antique Vietnam curses
("red's for the blood we lose,
white's for the gauze we use
to bind up burnt up, blackened bodies—
the rest is for the corpses numb and blue")
or even recite Barrett Browning's "Curse on a Nation"
as I pass between Malcolm X College
and Cook County Hospital.
The blood of a dog
lost for auto execution
freezes across the lane lines:
I avoid sideswiping the next car.
As always, mine is the fifth car
in the east company parking lot.
I unbuckle from the relentless
computation of speed and space
and the unrelenting fear that each jolt signals
the impending breakdown of my car.
I enter doors that leave little room for hope
that ensuring that stockbrokers get their quotations
via satellite to make money as the stocks
go up and down
will serve the commonweal or
even that one day will differ from the next.
In refurb and repair
it's not the day-to-day hassles
that do it to you:
the tug of war between
the bench and the field techs
for the known good boards;
the wiped out diagnostic disks;
the jammed up solder suckers;
or the slack periods when the boss
has time to look over your shoulder.
No. It's the engineered profiteering:
the peripherals made incompatible
with all but one kind of processor;
the price of plastic printer gears

jacked up until it's cheaper
to buy a new replacement printer
except the tax write-offs aren't so good;
the investment protective twists
in the feedback circuitry
that won't regulate better
but will make outside repair difficult
after the warranty expires.
And then Roosevelt Road and return
towards Sears Tower like
Chicago giving the suburbs the finger.
Outside the new church,
sited for commuter viewing convenience,
the stained glass tower
of Christ crucified glorifies capital punishment,
with a single woman crumpled
in helpless grief and adoration.
But what a tool they have in Jesus,
telling all who drive to work—
cheated, defeated and
stuffed with post mortem pie—
of our need for a savior.
Not visible from the expressway,
back among the Waldheim cemetery oaks,
which, unlike cross,
will be green in spring,
fertilized by Joe Hill's ashes
because "he didn't want to be caught dead
in the state of Utah,"
another monumental woman scorns to weep,
knowing that the Haymarket voices
throttled for despising
force-propped authority
will yet resound.
But Beltaine oaks and May Day martyrs behind,
traffic slows again to a crawl.
As I inch away from work,
I hear again the voices of those who,
by some reckonings,
I have most in common with,
those whom in conjunction with
I might achieve the one shot of real power
I will ever get in this society—
I hear again the voices of my coworkers.
In the midst of general bitching
about wives, ex-wives, child support payments,
girlfriends, gays, blacks, Latinos,
Japanese, Arabs and Jews,
a deeper within voice jeers:
"Mere non-economic issues.
Call yourself a syndicalist, will you?
Your boss isn't losing any sleep."

Coda:
It's not the job,
it's the commute.
It isn't even the commute,
it's just the way my mind stops
three hours after I get home.

X331052

supersede the existing government, expropriate the ill-gotten gains of the exploiting class, and establish a truly-egalitarian commonwealth. Well in advance of the abolitionist and women's-rights movements, Skidmore championed the equality of Indians, blacks, and women.

Neglected by historians—even by labor and radical historians—Skidmore is definitely a character well worth knowing more about. Amos Gilbert's short biography, originally published in 1834, remains the source of just about all that is known of this elusive figure. Never before published in book form, it is supplemented here by judicious excerpts from Skidmore's own magnum opus, outlining his ideas on such topics as class struggle, technology, and the revolutionary process.

Virtually all the information in this book has been buried in periodicals going back 150 years, and impossible to find even in most libraries. Thanks to the Charles H. Kerr Company, the interested reader can at last learn something of the life of the first American advocate of

workers' revolution.

If historians have liked to pretend that Thomas Skidmore never existed, they have written effusively about Charles A. Dana. One of America's most famous newspapermen, Dana was an editor of Horace Greeley's celebrated New York *Tribune* and later became both editor and owner of the *Sun*. His early radicalism, however, is—surprise!—the least-written-about phase of his long life. For several years he was an ardent Fourier socialist, and took part in the Brook Farm utopian community. Later he corresponded with Karl Marx. In 1849 he wrote the articles reprinted in *Proudhon and His Bank of the People*, the first American study of the "Father of Anarchism", Pierre-Joseph Proudhon.

Camillo Berneri once cited Proudhon as a prime example of those rare authors who "pack more ideas in a chapter than others could produce in ten years". Always provocative and stimulating, Proudhon exerted an enor-

(continued on Page 9)



WINERIES THREATENED INTO SUBMISSION

In the face of employer threats to permanently replace them with scabs, workers striking 11 of California's largest wineries accepted a concessionary contract. After eight weeks on the picket line, which industry analysts said had little effect on wine production, the 220 members of Local 186 and 45 of the Winery, Distillery, and Allied Workers approved a contract by 66% October 2nd that they had voted to reject by 80% two weeks before.

Citing a four-year slump in domestic-wine sales, members of the Winery Employers Association had demanded a variety of concessions when the workers' contract expired July 31st. The union countered with an offer to accept wage cuts of 50¢ an hour, but pointing out that imported-wine sales were declining as the dollar weakened, balked at givebacks on benefits which included reduced health coverage and smaller company contributions to pension plans. On August 27th, the workers walked out (see the October *IW*). In the fifth week the strike spread to the Gallo Winery, which in the 1970s beat a boycott organized by the United Farm Workers.

On September 29th, the employers' association demanded that strikers return to work by the following

Monday or be fired. As Local 186 vice-president Lonnie Sloan pointed out: "People were scared by the replacement letters; they were scared of losing their jobs."

The wineries were only the latest employers to use scabs to replace strikers. From the '50s to the '70s many industries didn't dare try to operate during strikes or impose lockouts on their employees. But President Reagan's firing of the 11,000 air controllers in 1981 sent the bosses a message that hiring scab replacements could not only be effective but also be widely viewed as acceptable. Meanwhile, in the midst of the Reaganite "recovery", high unemployment swelled the reserve army of the jobless with discharged factory workers, dispossessed farmers, people holding minimum-wage or part-time jobs, and those forced into early retirement. Many of these people have no union background or experience, don't view unions as anything but a special-interest group, and see "nothing wrong" in taking someone else's job. For a whole generation US business unions lived off the "capital" of the militance of their ever-receding pasts, and now they have used it up. Now US unionism and labor solidarity will have to be built from the ground up.

ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM

JUDGE REBUFFS THREE LTV UNIONS

On September 19th, the federal bankruptcy judge presiding over LTV's reorganization proceedings refused to allow unions representing steelworkers, machinists, and boilermakers to establish an independent creditors' committee, and ordered them to work with the creditors' committee already established in the case. The unions wanted an independent committee because it would give them far greater influence over the shape of the reorganized LTV that is expected from the Chapter 11 proceedings in two to four years.

LTV, parent of the nation's Number 2 steelmaker as well as a major force in energy and defense contracting, filed in July for protection from its creditors. The company's first step after filing was to cut medical and insurance benefits from its retired workers, and the unions rightly feel that LTV will be reorganized at their expense.

TEACHERS STRIKE IN THREE STATES

By the end of September, teachers in Steilacoom, Washington voted to approve the school district's latest contract proposal; teachers in Cass City, Michigan returned to work under a court order; and teachers in Michigan's Van Dyke School District returned to work without a contract. Teachers in Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania continue to walk the picket lines.

BOOK REVIEW continued

mous influence on social radicalism that is still discernible today. In France he is revered as an ancestor not only of the anarchist and socialist movements, but also of the broader labor movement and even of credit unions and workers' co-operatives. In the introduction to this new reprint, Paul Avrich discusses the heretofore almost completely unacknowledged influence of Proudhon's ideas in the US.

The fact that all Proudhon's own works are currently out of print in English makes this book especially appealing, for it includes lengthy quotations from some of his most important writings. Indeed, this new edition of a 137-year-old classic of radical Americana is the best introduction to the philosophical and economic ideas of international anarchism's first major theorist.

We look forward to forthcoming titles in the Kerr Company's Young America Series. These are more than antiquarian treasures, for they help us to understand the roots of contemporary radicalism. They are lights on the past that illuminate the present and future.

X322339

The New York Membership Branch of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

honor the living spirit of fellow workers

ANNIE LO PIZZA and JOHN RAMI

murdered by the Massachusetts militia

during the Lawrence strike of 1912.

On the evening of January 29 police and troopers clashed with a group of strikers at Union and Garden Streets.

Ordered to disperse, the strikers found themselves faced with troopers on one side and police on the other. At that moment a shot rang out in the winter night. A young woman striker—Annie LoPizza—fell dead.

The strikers maintained that a police officer fired the shot.

Said Ettor, who had been speaking in another part of town when the tragedy happened, "My sister, Annie LoPizza, was murdered by the agents of the mill owners."

When workers sought to attend the funeral of Annie LoPizza a few days later, troopers from Troop H, Squad 1, of Boston rode their horses into the mourners. There could be no funeral.

Nearby Harvard University allowed students credits for their midterm examinations if they agreed to serve in the militia against the strikers. "Insolent, well-fed Harvard men," the *New York Call* reported, "parade up and down, their rifles loaded . . . their bayonets glittering. . . ."

On January 30 another tragedy occurred. A 16-year-old boy, a non-striker, was bayoneted by a trooper and died. John Rami, according to testimony later, had refused to "move on" when a trooper told him to.

Casino Workers Strike

On September 15th, 13,000 workers in Atlantic City gambling casinos walked out on a 35-hour strike in response to employer demands for a two-year wage freeze. After the first day, a judge—accusing the members of Local 54 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union of obstructing traffic, pelting casino customers and busses with eggs, throwing rocks at cars, breaking windows in the seven struck casinos, and heckling scabs—restricted the number of pickets allowed at each casino entrance to three and limited the union to four hours a day on the Boardwalk with no more than 50 people. A second judge ruled the whole strike illegal because of a no-strike clause in the union's contract.

Bargaining, which had broken off early Monday, resumed Thursday evening after the intervention of the New Jersey State Board of Mediation. By the 17th, negotiators had tentatively agreed to a three-year pact whereby tipped employees would get a 10-cent-an-hour raise and non-tipped employees would get a 20-cent-an-hour raise. The hourly wages of the bartenders, cocktail waitresses, bellhops, and chambermaids who make up the union range from \$2.97 to \$12.26, not counting tips.

Police said that 30 to 40 people suffered minor injuries, and that three casino employees were among the seven people indicted on charges including malicious damage, possession of weapons, and aggravated assault. Meanwhile casino officials reviewed videotapes and photographs to determine whether any strikers should be fired.

DID YOU NOTICE?

A FEEBLE GESTURE at restraining US customs agents: For the last several years US customs agents have been fighting a personal war against the importation of subversive ideas. In particular, people returning from visits to Nicaragua have had books, notes, and personal letters taken and have been questioned and harangued about bringing subversive notions into the land of the free and the home of the brave. This summer the New York Center for Constitutional Rights sued the Customs Service on behalf of Americans harassed on returning from Nicaragua. Unable to defend its actions, the Customs Service offered to send a directive to all its agents limiting customs searches to material that incites "imminent acts of armed or other violence against constitutional government". On August 30th, the day after the directive was issued, a customs agent seized a book by Fidel Castro from an American returning from Cuba. A good thing the victim wasn't trying to smuggle in a copy of the Declaration of Independence.



NOVEMBER GREETINGS FROM MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL G.M.B.

HOUSEHOLD DEBT: In 1985 the level of indebtedness for US households relative to disposable income, rising sharply since 1975, reached a post-war high of 88%. This roughly parallels the 13.5% decline in real wages since 1973. In response to this income fall in the last decade and a half (as well as to changing social conditions) women entered the labor force in increasing numbers to provide many families with a second income. But even the growth of two-wage households has failed to maintain family income levels, with median family incomes falling by 7% from 1973 to 1985. Thus at least 65% of US households are in debt, with either a mortgage loan for home purchase (which makes up roughly two-thirds of all household debt) or a consumer loan (mainly for cars). One consequence of increased household debt is that delinquency and foreclosure rates on mortgage loans have risen to levels unprecedented since the 1930s. Full employment at decent wages and lower housing costs would ease the struggle of families to get by, but the US politico-economic system is not geared

to providing either.

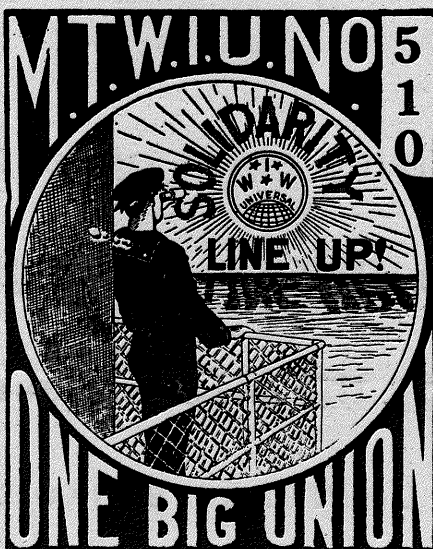
ORGANIZING POSSIBILITIES, ANYONE? Recent surveys show that 41% of women in non-union private-sector jobs said they would vote for union representation if given the chance, compared to only 27% of men. When survey results were broken down by industry, the sector most disposed toward unionization was the service sector, which is disproportionately female. As of 1984, only 14% of US working women were in unions, compared to 23% of men. And only 34% of union members were women. But under-represented as women are in unions, the benefits are clear: In 1985, median weekly earnings for women in unions were \$85 more than for their non-union counterparts. And in the sector of the economy most dominated by women workers—technical sales and administration support—women in unions earned 28% more than other women.

MARRIED WOMEN who work earn \$626 for every \$1,000 earned by men; single women earn \$910.

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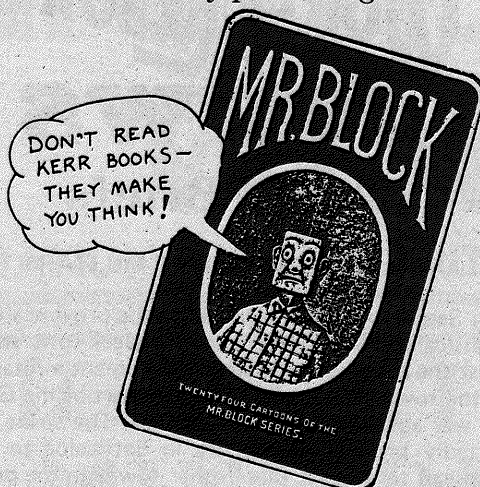
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RECORD REVIEW

SEATTLE GENERAL STRIKE

Album: *Seattle, 1919*. Band: The Fuse. \$7.50 from Fuse Music, 1230 1/2 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101.

This two-record set presents the story of the 1919 Seattle General Strike as a folk-rock musical. The story focuses on Peter Rinearson, a fictional character based on several real people. In September of 1917 Peter leaves his family's farm and migrates west. Arriving in Seattle in early 1918, he finds work in the shipyards and settles into the labor lifestyle of pre-strike Seattle. As the story progresses it shifts focus from Peter to the events of the strike itself. Anna Louise Strong appears as the second major character, but both characters are dwarfed by the emerging events.

Twenty-one songs take us from Peter's initial arrival in Seattle to the aftermath of the strike and Anna Louise Strong's departure for Russia. These songs were written by band members Bob Rosenthal and Mike Rawson. Rosenthal is the author of *After the Deluge: The Seattle General Strike of 1919 and Its Aftermath*. His thorough research is reflected in lyrics which are both factually rich and dramatically coherent. From the dirty dealings of Charles Piez of the Emergency Fleet Corporation to the refusal of Seattle longshoremen to load weapons destined for the counter-revolutionary forces of Admiral Kolchak in Russia, the details of Seattle's biggest labor struggle come alive in this unique musical presentation of working-class history.

The Fuse, a seven-member band based in Santa Barbara, are joined on this album by a four-member Labor Guard Horn Section. The production quality is high and the performance is consistently good. The album includes an eight-page booklet presenting the text of the story, the lyrics to the songs, and some photos of the strike courtesy of Seattle's Museum of History and Industry.

Stan Anderson



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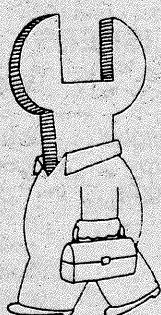
Solidarnosc Forms Above Ground Council

On September 30th, the leadership of the outlawed Solidarnosc union challenged the Polish Government by announcing the formation of a council composed of seven former union leaders who will work openly for the restoration of the union. The council consists of Zbigniew Bujak, Bogdan Borusewicz, Wladyslaw Frasnuk, Tadeusz Jedynek, Bogdan Lis, Janusz Palubicki, and Josef Pinior.

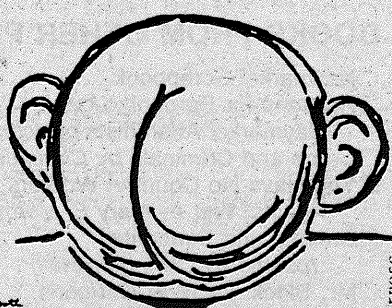
At the same time, two long-time fugitives in the Solidarnosc underground turned up at a news conference to outline the role of the new council and announce that they will take advantage of the amnesty to resume normal life. They added, however, that there remain operative underground networks to which they can return if the Polish Government responds with repression or harassment.

Both events reflected choices now facing the government of General Jaruzelski. The State could arrest the two men or quash the new group by force, once again detaining its members, but such a response would nullify the gains Warsaw is seeking abroad, such as the granting of new credits. Poland has a Western debt of some 32 billion dollars, the interest on which consumes a major portion of its hard-currency earnings.

Furthermore, the Government is believed to be planning an austerity program under which real wages will be cut and subsidies trimmed. It is possible that the Government made its surprise release of all political detainees in mid-September in hope of broadening its support before it embarks on risky belt-tightening—in other words, dangling the carrot before it uses the stick. But the released detainees are among the best organizers in Poland, and they are well able to see the stick.



HOW THE BOSSES
SEE US.



HOW WE SEE
THEM.

Solidarnosc

There Once Was A Union Maid

Ida Scott stood with her union, United Steelworkers Local 33. She worked as a nurses' aid at the Florence Villa Nursing Facility in Northern Wisconsin. She was paid a minimal wage and paid the union its dues.

All was going well, and there never seemed to be any need for union action. Local 33 filed its yearly contracts and collected its booty, and life went on.

Then the facility was sold to the Beverly Enterprises chain, and things began to go sour. Overnight everything was wrong with Ida's job performance. She became a target of complaints from the residents. She was guilty of everything from showing up with dirty shoes to forcing the staff nurses to do her job.

Because of these problems, Ida was transferred from her 11-7 shift to the day shift to allow closer supervision. Her union contract forbids such a transfer without employee approval, so she asked the steward/president of the union about filing a grievance. The union said nothing could be done for her, and she was forced to accept her demotion without even answering the charges brought against her.

So Ida went to work on the day shift. According to the residents and staff, she began to "do well" again. After a time she asked to be returned to the 11-7 shift, but was told no openings existed. Of course, the union couldn't do anything.

Then another complaint was filed, and Ida was summarily discharged, again without being allowed to answer the charge brought against her. (The charge was "kicking a patient"—while attempting to push a wheelchair footrest out of the way as she tried to lift the patient from wheelchair to commode.)

Again the union president told her that no grievance could be filed—because the district representative was "out of his office". When Ida asked for an address or a phone number so she could track down this elusive representative on her own, she was told that his office was located "somewhere in Madison, Wisconsin" (the current story has it in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania).

When Ida Scott finally received a written copy of the complaint, things became clearer. The complaint was signed by the "kicked" resident and co-signed by her union president.

And where are all the goons and ginks and company finks now?

The patient can't remember the alleged abuse, and wants to know why Ida quit taking care of her.

Beverly Enterprises? After offering Ida Scott up to the state inspectors as a sacrificial lamb—evidence of their intention to rid their house of patient abusers—is their reputation in the field once again pristine? The State of California doesn't think so. A couple of the homes in that state were just shuttered for—that's right—patient abuse and neglect.

I.W.W. WORLD LABOR NEWS

World Briefs

SRI LANKA STRIKES PROTEST MILITARY BASES

On September 20th, workers in the provincial capital of Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, began a week-long strike to protest the establishment of a Government military base near the town. The base was built as part of the Government war against the Tamil guerrillas. The strike, which reportedly brought all activity in Batticaloa to a halt, had spread to at least three other towns in the province by September 25th.

PUBLIC-SECTOR STRIKE IN SWEDEN

Some 14,000 Swedish nurses, civil servants, and other public-sector workers walked off their jobs September 30th in protest of a wage settlement. The strike closed some hospital wards and government agencies and disrupted public transport, but was weakened when unions representing blue-collar government workers refused to strike while mediators were still negotiating. The strikers want a wage settlement comparable to one won by private-sector unions earlier this year.

SWEDISH SUBWAY WORKERS JOIN STRIKE: On October 5th, workers on Stockholm's subways joined in the public employees' strike, bringing the number of striking Swedes to 20,000.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: *Wobblies*, *Harlan County USA*, *State of Siege*, and *Man of Marble* were among the films shown at a recent Dublin benefit by Irish journalist unions for the 5500 ex-Murdoch newspaper workers in England.

PHILIPPINE STRIKE: Philippine workers at Unilever's wholly-owned subsidiary struck the last week in September for a 100% pay hike—from 100 to 200 pesos. The company, the largest in Manila, employs 1500 workers; manufactures soap, cocoa, nut oil, and detergent; and reportedly exported more than 19.5 million dollars in profits last year.

MASS STRIKE IN ECUADOR: On September 17th, 700,000 Ecuadorean workers responded to a strike call by the United Workers Front to press their demand for a doubling of the minimum wage to \$200 a month. Students staged street protests in support of the demand as the Government declared the strike illegal and sent soldiers out to prevent workers from seizing public services.

Ida Scott? She's out of work and has been denied unemployment due to the reasons for her firing. She is still trying to find the Local 33 offices, and has submitted a grievance on her own behalf to her former supervisor, her union steward, and various AFL-CIO branches. I wonder how far they'll get?

And her union president still rules the roost. It seems that the Reagan boys aren't the only ones giving black eyes to the labor movement these days and abusing their power to carry out personal vendettas.

Doesn't it just make you want to break out a couple bars of "Solidarity Forever" and go down and join your local union?

Bill Doyle

British Miners Demand Justice

Eight British miners remain in jail, victimized for their role in the British coal strike. Another 468 miners remain on the blacklist. Most of the blacklisted miners were arrested for picket-line offenses, but either were acquitted or had their charges dismissed by the courts. Nonetheless, these fellow workers have been deprived of their livelihoods.

The IWW's General Defense Committee Local 2 recently forwarded petitions bearing hundreds of signatures demanding complete amnesty for British miners to England, where they will be presented to the Government. They are also raising funds for relief of these blacklisted and imprisoned miners, and for their families.

The *Syndicalist* reports increasing pressure for industrial action, meanwhile, among northeastern miners as a result of continued pit closings, the blacklistings, and the National Coal Board's failure to pay a wage increase now nearly a year overdue. In South Wales miners have banned overtime. On August 18th the National Justice for Miners Campaign held a meeting in Gateshead, where miners blasted the sackings and the inefficacy of governmental industrial tribunals and the Labour Party. Even in those cases where the tribunals have ordered the rehiring of blacklisted miners, David Guy of Durham NUM noted, the Coal Board has refused to rehire them.

These fellow workers continue to need our support and solidarity. The British Government, the Coal Board, and the blacklisted and jailed miners themselves must be shown that the labor movement has not forgotten them.

Following are addresses for the jailed miners: Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland, Gartree Maximum Security Prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester, South Wales. Terry French, B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone Jail, Kent. Martin and Nigel Hodgson, Armley Jail, Leeds, Yorkshire. Paul Wright, G76424, Kirkham Jail, Freckleton Road, Preston, Lancashire. Clive Thompson, G79348, Ackington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF. David Gaunt, E71037, A Wing, Milers Park Youth Custody Centre, Doddington Road, Wellingborough, North Derbyshire.

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